Approved for Release: 2018/09/17 C06627155

3520 Bios Camps +

220 1

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL
PROG 04/16/86
AMB:FVORTIZ
POL:JJCARRAGHER:FLD
DCM:JABUSHNELL, POL:RBHOWARD, EAO:MJBERGER, DAO:COL.NIELSEN
POL-3 AMB DCM, ECON SCI USIS, DAO MILGP EAO, RF CHRON

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PN//DOI/LAI//

CINCSO AND CINCLANT ALSO FOR INTAFF

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MARR, PGOV, SHUM, AR
SUBJ: CIVILIAN COURT TRIAL FOR GENERAL CAMPS

FVO

JAB

RBH

MJB

COL NIELSEN

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT DATE: 09-14-2018

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved for Release: 2018/09/17 C06627155

Approved for Release: 2018/09/17 C06627155

1. (U) THE FEDERAL APPEALS COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL DISTRICT DECIDED EARLIER THIS MONTH TO TAKE THE CASES OF RETIRED GENERAL RAMON ALBERTO CAMPS AND FUGITIVE GENERAL (RE) CARLOS GUILLERMO SUAREZ MASON AWAY FROM THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE ARMED FORCES. USING THE SAME AUTHORITY INVOKED LAST YEAR IN THE CASES OF THE NINE JUNTA MEMBERS, THE APPEALS COURT DECIDED NOT TO GRANT ADDITIONAL TIME TO THE SUPREME COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE CASES. THE COURT'S DECISION ON THE CAMPS CASE NOTED THAT THE STATUTORY SIX MONTHS ORIGINALLY GRANTED THE COUNCIL HAD LONG SINCE ELAPSED. FEDERAL PROSECUTOR JULIO STRASSERA, WHO PROSECUTED THE JUNTA NINE, REPORTEDLY ARGUED THAT EVEN WITH ADDITIONAL TIME, "IT WOULD BE BARELY POSSIBLE TO IMAGINE ANY DECISION IN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME."

Approved for Release: 2018/09/17 C06627155

Approved for Release: 2018/09/17 C06627155

2. (C) COMMENT: SUAREZ MASON WILL MOST LIKELY REMAIN A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE, BUT THE WAY IS NOW OPEN FOR CAMPS TO BE TRIED IN THE SAME FASHION--WITH AT LEAST SOME ORAL TESTIMONY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC--AS THE MEMBERS OF THE JUNTAS WERE. CAMPS, WHO IS IN MILITARY DETENTION, WILL BE JUDGED FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES COMMITTED IN BUENOS AIRES WHILE HE WAS PROVINCIAL POLICE CHIEF.

Approved for Release: 2018/09/17 C06627155

Approved for Release: 2018/09/17 C06627155

3. (C) THE CIVILIAN COURT'S ACTION WAS NOT UNEXPECTED AND BY ITSELF DOES NOT AFFECT THE GOA'S GOAL OF PUTTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS TRIALS ISSUE BEHIND IT BY THE END OF 1986 OR EARLY 1987. MANY HERE ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT CIVILIAN TRIALS OF CAMPS AND A FEW OTHER NOTORIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS WERE INEVITABLE, ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOA, TOLERATED BY THE MILITARY. IT IS UNCERTAIN, OF COURSE, WHAT PASSIONS TESTIMONY IN THE TRIAL MAY FAN, BUT THE ARGENTINE MILITARY ARE UNLIKELY TO REGARD CAMPS' FATE AS CRITICAL TO THEIR OWN. MUCH MORE WORRISOME TO THE ARMED FORCES WILL BE THE CASE OF NAVY LIEUTENANT ALFREDO ASTIZ, WHOSE DOSSIER IS APPARENTLY RE-OPENED IN THE SUPREME COUNCIL. SOME REPORTS SAY A SUPREME COUNCIL DECISION IS NEAR. TO MANY IN THE MILITARY, ASTIZ'S CASE CONTINUES TO BE THE LITMUS TEST OF GOA'S ATTITUDES TOWARD MID- OR LOWER-LEVEL OFFICERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE WAR ON SUBVERSION. ORTIZ##

Approved for Release: 2018/09/17 C06627155